



IPS

by **bw** packaging

CASE STUDY

OVERVIEW

Ion Nutritional Labs Expands Gummy Production with Integrated Packaging Line from BW Integrated Systems

THE CHALLENGE: Scaling Up For Growth

Ion Nutritional Labs, a rapidly expanding nutraceutical company, operates two facilities with 350 employees. Producing tablets, capsules, powders, and stick packs, their production lines run at 40 to 100 bottles per minute. However, rising demand for gummy supplements required a faster, more efficient solution to keep up with growth and stay competitive.

To meet this need, Ion Nutritional Labs (Ion Labs) initiated a \$25 million expansion that included two new gummy production lines and a dedicated packaging line. Their goal: implement a high-speed, fully automated gummy line that could handle large volumes, increase efficiency, and support long-term scalability.

Ion Labs turned to **BW Integrated Systems (BWIS)** and their **Integrated Packaging Solutions (IPS)** team to design and integrate a packaging solution that could meet their speed and efficiency targets while fitting into their facility's limited footprint.

"We needed a higher-end line that could go even faster. We wanted equipment that could grow and sustain growth for the next five years, while also making us cost competitive," said Matthew Keib, Chief Operations Officer, Ion Nutritional Labs.

THE SOLUTION: Full Integration & Automation

Ion Labs chose BW Integrated Systems for their expertise in automation and packaging integration, as well as their responsive US-based support. The **IPS team** played a crucial role in managing the entire integration process. By acting as a single point of contact, they ensured seamless communication and project management, minimizing complexity for Ion Nutritional Labs.

"I wanted one company that I was working with, building that relationship with, and having that communication. Customer service in the US was very important to us," said, Keib.

From the beginning, BWIS worked closely with Ion Labs to develop the best approach for their gummy line expansion. The **IPS team** coordinated with multiple OEMs to ensure that all selected equipment would integrate smoothly into Ion Labs' operations.



"Ion expressed to us that they wanted to improve automation and efficiency. We brought the IPS team in and provided a lot of confidence that we could integrate the equipment from OEMs they selected and have it run efficiently," said David Duff, BWIS Sales Executive.

Overcoming Space Constraints

One of the biggest challenges was fitting the new line into a small space without sacrificing performance. Despite the limited footprint, BWIS' **IPS team** developed a layout that allowed for full integration and high-speed operation. The team worked collaboratively to design a custom solution that maximized efficiency while working with spatial constraints.

"We did have a very tight footprint. BWIS developed a line that maintained speed, offered full integration, and squeezed it all in. They did an amazing job," said Jamie Mireles, Maintenance Manager at Ion Nutritional Labs.

Complete Integration and Data Driven Automation

The final solution included everything from bottle unscrambling and case packing to robotic palletizing. The line was fully automated, allowing upstream and downstream equipment to communicate seamlessly. The **IPS team** also integrated real-time data collection, enabling Ion Nutritional



Labs to monitor performance, troubleshoot remotely, and feed critical data into their internal systems.

"We can pull some data out of the line and feed that information into our system. They went above and beyond with all my special requests. It was a pleasant experience for me," said Johanenes Kiewath, Automation & Control Engineer at Ion Nutritional Labs.

By managing the entire integration process and coordinating with multiple equipment providers, BWIS' **IPS team** ensured a streamlined experience for Ion Nutritional Labs.



THE RESULTS: Efficiency, Cost Savings, and Futureproofing

With the new line operational, Ion Nutritional Labs is fully equipped to handle the next five to 10 years of growth. The fully integrated, automated system meets rising market demand while driving efficiency, reducing costs, and providing scalability for the future.

"By having this line, we've set ourselves up for success to grow with the market and be able to handle any sort of changes that may come," Keib said.

Key Results

- **Increased production speed:** The new high-speed gummy line enables Ion Labs to run faster, significantly increasing production capacity.
- **Cost savings:** Automation across the line reduced operational costs, improving Ion Labs' cost competitiveness.
- **Improved quality control:** Real-time data and remote monitoring capabilities improved quality control and enabled faster troubleshooting.
- **Scalability:** The automated line can scale quickly, ensuring Ion Labs can meet increasing market demands.

Positive Impact on Ion Labs' Team Members

The new gummy line not only boosted production but also empowered Ion Nutritional Labs' team members. The automation and control systems gave the team greater confidence in meeting production goals and maintaining quality.

"The line is state-of-the-art. It gave me better control of the whole process and make sure I'm packing a good, quality product and hitting my performance goal," said Jean Ramirez, Gummy Manager at Ion Nutritional Labs.

Contact Us

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